

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's Los Angeles Times got it right: "Voters are getting tired of empty promises" from the Republican leadership on campaign finance reform.

Weeks have passed since the Republican leadership committed to holding a vote on the Shays-Meehan bill. Each day Republican leaders have postponed reform or debate on reform, and every day they postpone it, support for our bill has grown. Grassroots organizations, ranging from the AARP to the National Farmers Union to public groups all over the country are uniting behind supporting the Shays-Meehan bill.

Last week, key Democratic and Republican sponsors of the commission bill merged with our coalition in support of a single bipartisan bill. Over the past few weeks, reform-minded Members on both sides of the aisle have committed to pulling their own reform proposals off if the Shays-Meehan bill wins a majority vote. Now all we need is the opportunity to do just that. Vote on the Shays-Meehan bill.

In short, to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), reform supporters are ready to move forward. Enough is enough. Let us vote on Shays-Meehan.

TIME TO BUILD NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it is a shame that it has taken nuclear blasts in India and Pakistan to convince American leaders that it is time to put an end to our policy of mutually assured vulnerability.

What I mean by this is that the United States is vulnerable to a missile attack. Many Americans are unaware of this. But if a missile were to be fired at American cities, the United States would be defenseless against it. Not only that, but this is the deliberate policy of the United States, to remain defenseless in the face of nuclear attack.

But recent events in Pakistan and India should serve to force us to reconsider our policy of vulnerability in face of a missile attack. Recent reports that Communist China has 13 nuclear missiles aimed at the United States should reinforce the need for this reassessment. It is time to begin to build a national missile defense system. The security of our Nation is at stake.

SUPPORT DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM ACT

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Congress and the Presi-

dent to send more dollars to our classrooms instead of Washington bureaucrats. The Dollars to the Classroom Act is a Republican initiative which would require 95 percent of all Federal funding for K-through-12 education programs to be sent to local schools. As a former teacher, I support this act.

Unfortunately, the Clinton administration and its core of Washington bureaucrats believe that they know best how to educate our children. They believe that our children should submit to another national test and that they would benefit from another Federal mandate.

However, the American people know better. The Dollars to the Classroom Act will send nearly all of our Federal tax dollars for education back to local schools. That means \$10 billion will be taken from the grasp of bureaucrats and put into the hands of a teacher who actually knows your child's name.

Support H.R. 3248, the Dollars to the Classroom Act.

WITNESSES REFUSING TO TESTIFY IN WHITE HOUSE INVESTIGATION

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the Washington Post, which is not exactly known as a conservative newspaper, has done the American people a great service. I do not think anybody with a straight face could say they are part of some vast alleged right wing conspiracy.

Yesterday the Washington Post published a full page list of 94 witnesses who have either fled the country or taken the fifth amendment in relation to the Clinton White House scandals. There has been a pattern of nearly total noncooperation by this administration.

The White House delays and stone-walls, and then complains that the investigation is taking too long. Witnesses flee the country or refuse to testify, and then the White House accuses investigators of being on a witch hunt. Attorney General Janet Reno expands the investigation, and then the White House blames Judge Starr for spending too much money. White House aides suddenly experience massive memory loss and cannot recall any relevant facts about important events.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better than this.

CONGRESS, NOT THE FCC, SHOULD SET TAXES

(Mr. CANNON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, the most exciting technological development of the past decade is the Internet. This truly global network is a conduit for

communication and commerce and is rapidly transforming business, government and virtually every other part of our society.

Not surprisingly, Congress in the Telecom Act 2 years ago moved to push the Internet into our schools. The concept was that deregulation would push down phone rates, allowing for some of the savings to be channeled into connecting schools to the Internet.

That was the intent. The reality has been much different. Starting July 1, every AT&T customer will begin paying a 5 percent surcharge on every long distance call. MCI customers will be burdened with a 5.9 percent markup.

Should every American school have access to the Internet? Yes. Should every American child have the opportunity to tap the wonders of the electronic highway? Clearly, yes. But should every American be forced to pay up to 5.9 percent of their current phone bill in order to funnel funds into a new Federal bureaucracy with the charge to disburse billions of dollars to schools that beg appropriately? The answer to that is no.

The power and authority to levy taxes is clearly vested in Congress. We, not the FCC, should be shaping policy in this area.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO MARY-ALYCE JONES ON THE PASSING OF HER MOTHER

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN). Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I take this time today to notify Members of the House that we could be expressing our condolences to Mary-Alyce Jones on the death of her mother this past Sunday.

Many in the Congress will recognize Mary-Alyce as a longtime employee of the Clerk, whose professional attitude and quiet dignity here on the floor serves as a model for all employees to follow, and Members as well.

□ 1130

So on behalf of all the Congress to not only notify them, we say to Mary-Alyce Jones and the family to please accept our deepest sympathy and know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family on this day of loss.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT OF 1998

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 462 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 462

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the